

HOARD

Unique ID: IOW-EAAFE2

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

Hoard of four large bowl-shaped silver ingots and one gold British B (or "Chute") stater of Late Iron Age date. Treasure case no. 2009 T460.

Notes:

2009 T460: Shalfleet, Isle of Wight Iron Age hoard

Report to HM Coroner

Circumstances of discovery

Mr Richard Armiger, Mr David Cole and Mrs Angela Greenwood found a number of silver ingots, silver fragments and a coin whilst searching with metal-detectors in August 2009. This material was reported to Frank Basford, the Portable Antiquities Scheme's FLO for the Isle of Wight, and subsequently delivered to the British Museum.

Description of finds

The find consists of one late Iron Age gold coin, four bowl-shaped ingots and six small fragments of silver. These are described below, with the results of scientific analysis conducted at the BM included in the attached report.

The coin

The coin is an uninscribed British B (or "Chute") stater, struck in the "South-Western" region (Hampshire-Wiltshire-Dorset-Isle of Wight) during the late Iron Age, circa 80/70-50 BC. Coins produced in this area are attributed to the Durotriges, who are thought to have inhabited this region during this period. The type, British B, appears in the standard catalogues of Van Arsdell (1989, no. 1205) and Hobbs (1996, no. 35-76). The coin has been deliberately cut on both faces (obverse and reverse), presumably either to test the quality of the metal or for ritual reasons linked to the process of deposition. It has been registered with the Celtic Coin Index as CCI 10.0969.

Diameter: 19.7mm; weight: 6.06g

The ingots

All four ingots are made of silver-rich alloys, are sub-circular in plan and have uneven and pitted surfaces.

Ingot 1: Diameter: c. 174mm; thickness: c. 63mm; weight: 8544.4g

Ingot 2: Diameter: c. 205mm; thickness: c. 60mm; weight: 8643.3g

Ingot 3: Diameter: c. 142mm; thickness: c. 72mm; weight: 6055.3g

Ingot 4: Diameter: c. 129mm; thickness: c. 65mm; weight: 3681.1g

The fragments

The six metal fragments are described in the attached report.

Discussion

The ingots were found flat face down, in close proximity to one another and in a linear formation on a roughly east-west axis. They were excavated by the finders and reported to the Isle of Wight FLO shortly afterwards. The Isle of Wight FLO visited the site with the finders, landowners and the local HER Officer and recorded the precise location using Differential Global Positioning System. The coin, which was also reported, had been discovered 49m from the ingots.

The ingots can be compared to those from the South Wight, Isle of Wight hoard (2004 T131, see TAR 2004, no. 421), which were of a similar form and metal composition. In this case the ingots were found in association with defaced Iron Age gold and silver coins. As the ingots are probably of late Iron Age date (and certainly over 300 years old), predominately made of precious metal and were deposited as a group with the fragments, they constitute Treasure under the stipulations of the Treasure Act (1996).

The evidence for the association of the coin with this material (and thus its status as treasure "by association") rests on its general proximity to the ingots and the extraordinary similarities with the earlier South Wight hoard. Not only is the present coin of a type included within this earlier ingot and coin assemblage, but it has been subjected to an identical form of defacement.

The defacement of Iron Age coins is almost unknown except for in a limited number of hoards from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Almost all of the South Wight coins were deliberately cut with knife marks through the wreath design on the obverse, with occasional additional marks to the reverse. The fact that the Shalfleet coin was treated in an identical manner and discovered so close to a cache of ingots suggests that their deposition was associated. Together these finds of ingots and defaced coins appear to represent a hoarding or depositional practice peculiar to the Isle of Wight.

Conclusion

All the material described above should be considered a *prima facie* case of Treasure.

Ian Leins, British Museum

Jody Joy, British Museum

Frank Basford, Portable Antiquities Scheme

10 February 2010 (Amended 23 June 2010)

Find of note status

This has been noted as an interesting find by the recorder.

Subsequent actions

Current location of find: ingots auctioned at Bonhams, gold stater returned to Mrs Greenwood,

23/03/2011

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder after being disclaimed as Treasure

Treasure details

Treasure case tracking number: 2009T460

Chronology

Broad period: IRON AGE

Subperiod from: Late

Period from: IRON AGE

Subperiod to: Late

Period to: IRON AGE

Date from: Circa 80 BC

Date to: Circa 50 BC

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 11

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Sunday 30th August 2009

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: Treasure case no. 2009 T460

Treasure case number: 2009T460

Materials and construction

Primary material: Silver

Manufacture method: Cast

Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

Region: [South East](#) (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: [Isle of Wight](#) (Unitary Authority)

District: [Isle of Wight](#) (Unitary Authority)

To be known as: Shalfleet

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: GPS (from the finder)

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

Discovery circumstances: Metal detecting rally

Current location: ingots auctioned at Bonhams, gold stater returned to Mrs Greenwood, 23/03/2011

General landuse: Cultivated land

Specific landuse: Operations to a depth greater than 0.25m

finds.org.uk